COMIC SHOP NEWS™

1158

BLOOM COUNTY

A LITTLE BOY WITH ANTLERS
A BIG MAN WITH GUNS
A WORLD WITHOUT HOPE

SWEET TOOTH

A bizarre and haunting new series
written & illustrated by
the award-winning creator of
THE ESSEX COUNTY TRILOGY and THE NOBODY

JEFF LEMIRE

Monthly
SEPTEMBER 2009

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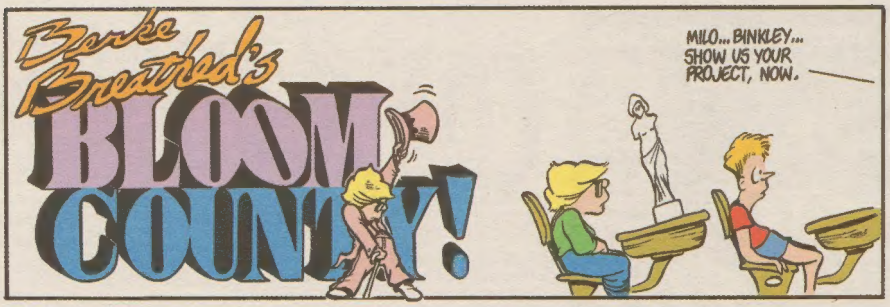

Breathed's Classic Is Blooming Again

Ask comic strip aficionados to name some of the best strips of the past quarter century, and it's inevitable that *Berkeley Breathed's* ***Bloom County*** will make the short list. Even though the strip ended some two decades ago this month, fans have hoped for the opportunity to once again enjoy Breathed's irreverent and offbeat strip and its quirky cast that includes Opus, Steve Dallas, Bill the Cat, Milo Bloom, Michael Binkley, and Cutter John—and that's about to happen, thanks to *Scott Dunbier, Dean Mullaney,* and IDW Publishing.

"Fans have pestered me for years," said *Berkeley Breathed,* creator of the strip that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1987, "for this ultimate ***Bloom County*** collection in that polite, respectful badgering way that only fans can manage. Thank God I can now tell them something better than just 'please remove your tent from my lawn.' I can say, 'It's coming!"

Fans have Dunbier to thank for the addition of ***Bloom County: The Complete Library*** to the IDW lineup. "The first time I proposed it was at WildStorm, several years ago. The ***Peanuts*** collections from Fantagraphics were doing very well and I was asked to think about what comic strips we should consider publishing. ***Bloom County*** was one of three I suggested, the other two being ***Pogo*** and ***Doonesbury***. All were shot down.

"When I came to IDW a while later, it was one of the things on my wish list of projects. As it turns out, IDW CFO *Matt Ruzicka* is a huge ***Bloom County*** fan and had suggested going after it to *Chris Ryall,* IDW editor-in-chief, a year or two before I got there. Chris had tracked Breathed down but he wasn't interested. So I asked Chris if he still had Breathed's e-mail.

"When I got Berkeley's e-mail, I wrote and gave him a quick pitch, to see if he had any interest. I also told him I was more of a phone guy and would really like to talk to him about it rather than just go through e-mail. He wrote back in about ten minutes and said, basically, 'Thanks but no thanks.' But he also included his phone number and said I was free to call if I wanted. So, no time like the present—I called him then and there. I think he was surprised when he heard from me so quickly.

"Berkeley had some reservations about the series being collected. In some ways I think he felt the strip had had its time but now it was over. I strongly disagreed with him, and eventually wore him down. When I sent copies of the books *Dean Mullaney* had already designed at IDW, like the Eisner-winning ***Terry & the Pirates,*** he was sold. And it's been a pleasure working with him ever since."

For readers unfamiliar with the strips beginnings and its publishing history, Dunbier offered a brief rundown. "Berkeley did a strip in ***The Daily Texan,*** his college paper, when he attended the University of Texas at Austin; it was called ***The Academia Waltz***. There were enough strips for him to self-publish two small collections, and he paid his way through school with the proceeds. You can still see both books on ebay from time to time, going for hundreds of dollars.

"***Academia Waltz*** brought Breathed to the attention of the Washington Post Syndicate, and on December 8, 1980, just a month after *Ronald Reagan* was elected president, ***Bloom County*** debuted in 12 newspapers. On May 10, 1981, the Sunday strip began. The final ***Bloom County*** strip appeared on August 6, 1989, and its circulation had grown to over 1,200 papers. More than 3000 ***Bloom County*** strips were published in those years."

As the word "complete" wold indicate, ***Bloom County: The Complete Library*** will include both the dailies and the Sundays. "All the strips, dailies and Sundays, will be printed in chronological order, with the Sundays in color," Dunbier said. "A number of these strips have never been reprinted, and readers will be happy, I think, to see full Sunday pages."

Readers who have read the strips before will be pleasantly surprised by the look of the color pages. "Because newspaper printing in the '80s was so bad, Breathed, Scott, and I decided to recreate the color using those tearsheets as guides," designer *Dean Mullaney* said.

Mullaney's involvement ensures that the book will measure up to the most demanding standards. "Readers can expect the highest quality because *Berkeley Breathed* has loaned us his original artwork," Mullaney explained. "For strips that he's missing, we're using syndicate proofs, and filling in a few from printed versions.

"The books will be done in an 11" by 8.5" format, the same as ***Terry and the Pirates*** and ***Little Orphan Annie***. Breathed originally drew the Sundays in the half-page format, which contains the only complete version of the color pages. Many newspapers only ran the six bottom panels, but we're including the logo and header panels—which, in essence, will be new to most readers. This is certainly the definitive, first-ever complete edition of the ***Bloom County*** library."

Will there be extras? Of course! "The first volume will have a number of ***Academia Waltz*** strips, Breathed's college strip, and the precursor of ***Bloom County***," Dunbier said. "Additionally, we are printing a weeks worth of 'emergency strips,' ones done in case Breathed was late, or if a scheduled strip was deemed too controversial for publication. To the best of our knowledge they have never before been published."

"Breathed is also drawing new artwork for each cover," Mullaney added, "and has broken his long silence about the strip to write a wonderful behind-the-scenes introduction. In addition, Scott and Berkeley have provided context annotations to certain strips, providing insightful background information."

"There will be five hard cover books collecting ***Bloom County***," Dunbier continued. "***Book One*** starts on December 8, 1980, with the first strip, and goes to September 26, 1982. Six months later volume two will be released, collecting from September 27, 1982 to July 1, 1984. Subsequent volumes will come out every six months."

Since ***Bloom County*** often used then-current-events as a stepping stone for his strip's topical humor, how will IDW ensure that the strips will work for today's readers who might not know the history well enough to get the references? "That was a major concern Berkeley had," Dunbier said. "He felt people might not get the strip anymore, that some of the cultural references could be lost. I told him some ideas I had been playing with, about context pages and notations to bridge any of those gaps. Luckily, he liked what he heard.

"In the final book there are editorial notations, as well as occasional commentary from Breathed. To round it out, there are several context pages, to give a general feel for the era. These are nice little additions—we had fun with them—but really, the strip succeeds on its own merits, and does so brilliantly."

Bloom County was followed by two other *Berkeley Breathed* strips—***Outland*** and ***Opus***—that used several characters and concepts from ***Bloom County***. Is there any chance that IDW will follow up its ***Bloom County*** run with collections of these strips as well? "That's up to Berkeley, but I would certainly hope so," Dunbier said. "They are all great strips and deserve to be collected nicely."

Bloom County: The Complete Library HC Volume 1, a $39.99 book, is scheduled for early October release.

by Cliff Biggers

FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP!
6-12
HERE WE GO... C'MON BABY! CRUISING AT 12,000 FEET! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH! YEAH!
FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP! FLAP!
PENGUINS JUST GOTTA HAVE FAITH.

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Doc Siders

Doc's on his way back—and he's crossing paths with Batman! ***Batman/Doc Savage,*** a oneshot by *Brian Azzarello & Phil Noto* with cover art by *JG Jones,* is slated for November release. The oneshot will pave the way for the launch of the new ***Doc Savage*** series, which will also feature the Blackhawks, the Spirit, the Avenger, Rima (and what's this we hear about the possibility of a mysterious Shadow-y figure as well?...), and other characters. However, neither the oneshot nor the subsequent series by Azzarello & *Rags Morales* are set in the DCU—instead, they're set in a world much like Doc's New York of the 1930s, only with some elements of contemporary technology.

"We're creating a fifty-third world," Azzarello said at the DC Nation panel in Chicago. "Doc Savage is an established character in it, while Batman is just getting started—think Batman month one." The new costumed hero piques the interest of the established pulp heroes, all of whom operate in a world in which "there are no superpowers, so I feel comfortable writing that stuff.

"Cities are urban jungles– and there's also unchartered mysterious countries with their own jungles as well. It's world where you're guilty before being proven innocent– something that rarely happens. Little people make big mistakes and suffer the consequences. Life is cheap, and everyone has their price. Where part of the thrill of being rich, is watching the poor suffer. Y'know, my kind of place."

In addition to the new ***Doc Savage*** series, a ***Spirit*** series is also in the works set in this same anachronistic universe.

CSNsider

•At Wizard World Chicago, artist *Freddie Williams* offered a little more info about the ***JSA All Stars*** series that ***CSN*** told you about two weeks ago. The new series will focus on the younger JSA characters. "Basically, it takes them from being excellent individual heroes and makes them into a cohesive team. As to why the current JSA splits into two groups—well, editor *Ian Sattler* said that an upcoming issue of ***Justice Society*** will answer that.

•*Paul Tobin & Patrick Sherberger* are working on a new miniseries ***Spider-Man & the Secret Wars,*** that will "tell things as seen through Spidey's eyes," Marvel's *Jim McCann* said, "some things you've seen and some things you haven't seen."

•*Jeff Parker* is taking over as T-bolts writer beginning with ***Thunderbolts #138,*** which will feature "Norman Osborn facing off against Songbird and the original Thunderbolts," McCann said.

•Marvel's ***War of Kings*** sequel, entitled ***Realm of Kings,*** launches in November courtesy of writers *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning.*

•Acclaimed ***X-Men*** artists *Paul Smith & Terry Austin* will reunite with *Chris Claremont* for a few issues of ***X-Men Forever,*** which editor *Mark Paniccia* said would "turn the definition of what it is to be a mutant on its head."

•*Mark Waid & Emma Rios* are the creators for the new ***Strange*** series following the exploits of Marvel's one-time sorcerer supreme, now that he has lost the title to the new Doctor Voodoo.

•*Tony Bedard & Scott McDaniel* bring back *52's Grant Morrison*-created Asian superteam in ***The Great Ten,*** a ten-part series debuting in November. "When I went off to college, I really got into Eastern philosophy — Taoism, Buddhism, Zen, etc." Bedard told DC's ***The Source*** blog. "Around the same time, I picked up ***Animal Man*** and I've been a hardcore *Grant Morrison* fan ever since. So I leapt at the chance to do a ***Great Ten*** series, to flesh out these characters Grant dreamed up and tap the amazing storytelling potential in both them and their country. It's a chance to do a different take on superheroes, and just like my ***R.E.B.E.L.S.*** series, I think ***The Great Ten*** is going to take a lot of people by surprise."

•Marvel's ***Realm of Kings*** event will be supplemented by ***Inhumans*** and ***Imperial Guard*** miniseries, both written by *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning.*

Strip Tease

In addition to telling ***CSN*** all about the upcoming ***Bloom County*** series, *Scott Dunbier & Dean Mullaney* also talked about some of the other high-profile comic strip projects coming from IDW in the next several months.

One of the highlights is the first volume in a series collecting *Bil Keane's* long-running ***Family Circus*** series. The strip is sort of the *Rodney Dangerfield* of comic strips: it just can't get any respect, but it remains popular and beloved by legions of readers nevertheless. "I've been a fan of the ***Family Circus*** since I was a kid," Dunbier said. "And, really, I have an even greater appreciation for it now that I have two young boys—I see these cartoons come to life in my home every day. What people seem to forget when ***Family Circus*** is discussed is just how good a cartoonist and observer *Bil Keane* was, and I hope readers will look at these early strips with fresh eyes. I think people will be a little surprised by the tone of the early strips. While they are wholesome, and good family entertainment, there is also more of an edge to them. You'll see!"

Also in the works are two volumes reprinting *Chic Young's* early ***Blondie*** strips. "The first will start at the beginning, go through the entire courtship, the trials and tribulations of Dagwood's rich parents trying to prevent him from marrying 'lowly' Blondie Boopadoop, Dagwood's hunger strike, after which his parents relent, and ending with the marriage in February 1933," editor/designer *Dean Mullaney* said. "***Book Two*** picks up with Dagwood's parents disinheriting him, Blondie and Dagwood settling into married life, and continuing through the birth of Baby Dumpling, and into the mid-'30s."

Will this kick off a comprehensive reprinting of the entire ***Blondie*** run? "We're starting with the beginning in these volumes, and will determine future volumes sometime next year," Mullaney said.

Also on the release schedule are:

•***Alex Raymond's Rip Kirby Volume 1,*** scheduled for October release. "It's going to look gorgeous," Mullaney said. "We are reproducing the strips from pristine syndicate proofs that will allow readers to see, for the first time, the full luxurious detail of Raymond's brushwork."

•***Dick Tracy Volume 9*** follows in December, presented in the larger size that Mullaney introduced with ***Volume 7.***

•***Little Orphan Annie Volume 4*** and ***Bringing Up Father: From Sea to Shining Sea,*** slated for November release. "All the glorious ***Bringing Up Father*** Sunday pages will be carefully restored and presented in full color," Mullaney said. "*George McManus* championed Art Deco in the comics, and we want to provide the best possible showcase for his wonderful designs and lush, detailed artwork."

SPIDER-MAN BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

IF ONLY I'D LEARNED THE SECRET OF ADAMANTIUM IN TIME-- MY TENTACLES WOULD MAKE MINCEMEAT OF YOU!
IF WISHES WERE FISHES, DOC--YOU'D STILL BE ALL WET!

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•*Jack Kent's* ***King Aroo*** launches in January 2010. "The postage-stamp-sized kingdom of Myopia is presided over by kindly King Aroo and his faithful (if sometimes prickly) retainer, Yupyop," IDW's press release for the book explained. "The King turns to Professor Yorgle for wisdom, Wanda Witch for magic spells, the kangaroo mailman, Mr. Pennipost, for news from far and wide…and looks for love from the Beautiful Princess From the Kingdom Next Door." The book, which is edited and designed by *Dean Mullaney*, will include strips produced from 1950 through 1952, all shot from original artwork and syndicate proofs.

•***Rip Kirby Volume 2*** follows in February 2010.

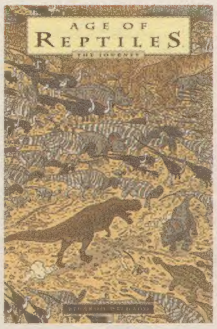
•March brings *Al Capp's* ***Li'l Abner Volume One***, which starts "from the very beginning," editor/designer Mullaney said, including dailies and *color* Sundays (never before reprinted). We're working with the Capp estate on this one."

"The rest of 2010 includes more ***Bloom County, Little Orphan Annie, Rip Kirby,*** and ***Family Circus.*** New series for 2010 include ***Archie*** by *Bob Montana* (from the beginning), and ***Secret Agent Corrigan*** by *Archie Goodwin & Al Williamson*."

In addition to strip reprints, the summer of 2010 "will see the massive art book/biography entitled ***Genius, Isolated: The Life and Art of Alex Ross,***" Mullaney added. "We're working with Alex's children on this one."

And what about the holy grail of modern strip collectors—a comprehensive reprinting of *Garry Trudeau's* ***Doonesbury?*** "There's always a chance," IDW's *Scott Dunbier* said. "Anyone out there have Trudeau's e-mail address handy?"

Coming Comics—Dark Horse in November



Richard Delgado goes Cretaceous once again in the four-part ***Age of Reptiles: The Journey.*** This time around, he follows migrating herbivorous dinosaurs as they struggle to head south... a struggle that puts them on a collision course with a hungry tyrannosaurus rex.

While many have loved the recoloring work on Dark Horse's ***Conan Chronicles,*** others have longed for a reprinting that included the original color work that helped to define the classic *Roy Thomas/Barry Windsor-Smith* run. And that's just what they'll find in the pages of ***The Barry Windsor-Smith Conan Archives Volume 1 HC,*** a 200-page hardcover that reprints the first half of Windsor-Smith's run on the series that put sword and sorcery on the comic book map—and each page features remastered color that uses the original color palette for authenticity.

Hirotake Kisaragi's ***Blood+ Kowloon Nights*** is a 176-page manga that features Saya's lover Hagi in a solo adventure that takes place in the years between Saya's infamous Vietnam incident and the events in ***Blood+.***

Adam Hughes is the guest cover artist for ***Buffy the Vampire Slayer #30,*** the final installment of *Jane Espenson & Georges Jeanty's* "Retreat."

Dark Horse continues its ***Creepy*** relaunch with ***Creepy Trading Cards,*** a fifty-card set featuring classic cover art by *Jack Davis, Frank Frazetta, Richard Corben, Ken Kelly,* and others, along with the occasional oddball interior ad page.

Arvid Nelson & Nick Stakal adapt *Christopher Krovatin's* best-selling young adult novel ***Venomous*** in the oneshot ***Deadlock,*** which follows a loner who uses his comic book creation to escape from challenges of the real world.

Zack Whedon, Joelle Jones, & Dan Jackson venture into the world of *Joss Whedon's* ***Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*** with the 40-page oneshot ***Dr. Horrible.*** This standalone tale reveals how a young, impressionable, but brilliant Dr. Horrible was drawn into a world of crime. Readers are reacquainted with the charming, brawny, crime-fighting superhero extraordinaire Captain Hammer when Dr. Horrible crosses paths with his greatest enemy in an all-out showdown of immeasurable proportions. Special guest appearances include Dr. Horrible's love interest, Penny; his sidekick, Moist; and a meter man.

The Simpsons Classic Character syroco-style statue series continues with its sixth offering, ***Krusty the Clown.*** The 550-piece limited edition is packaged in a special litho-printed, full-color tin box with a vintage-style pin-back button and booklet.

Star Wars Adventures: Luke Skywalker & The Treasure of the DragonSnakes presents a never-before-seen part of that training as Luke is given the task of finding—and retrieving—an object guarded by the deadliest creatures on the swamp world of Dagobah: the monstrous dragonsnakes!

Anakin Skywalker, Jedi Knight and hero of the Republic, is challenged by a fledgling hero of the Confederacy in ***Star Wars: The Clone Wars #10*** by *Henry Gilroy, Steven Melching, & Brian Kolchak.*

After Order 66, the Jedi purge led by the dark and fearsome Sith Lord Darth Vader, most of the remaining Jedi are hiding to survive—but not all. Sha Koon, niece of the esteemed Plo Koon, has narrowly escaped the attack on the Jedi Temple, and has been left full of questions about the dark side. Sha Koon will not hide; she will find another way to continue being a Jedi—one that will place her directly in the path of Darth Vader and the Emperor! See what happens next in ***Star Wars: Purge—Seconds to Die,*** a 40-page oneshot written by *John Ostrander*

Working under the personal supervision of Tim Burton, Dark Horse offers large-size 8" vinyl figures of Burton's ***Oyster Boy*** and ***Toxic Boy,*** as well as a PVC set that includes ***Toxic Boy, Mummy Boy,*** and ***Penguin Boy.***

Every Duck billionaire needs a nemesis or three—and you can see one of them in his three-dimensional glory when Dark Horse releases the syroco-style ***Uncle Scrooge Classic Character Statue #6: Beagle Boy,*** packaged in a special litho-printed, full-color tin box with a vintage-style pin-back button and booklet.

Dark Horse collected volumes include:

•***Chobits Omnibus Edition,*** a 720-page hardcover collecting *Clamp's* saga, complete with sixteen bonus color pages.

•***Fear Agent Volume 5: Against I,*** collecting ***Fear Agent #s 22-27.***

•***The Goon Volume 0: Rough Stuff,*** a remastered color edition of the early black and white series that includes an expanded sketchbook section with notes from series creator *Eric Powell.*

•***Star Wars Omnibus: Shadows of the Empire TP,*** collecting more than 400 pages of classic ***Star Wars*** material by *Steve Perry, Michael Stackpole, Timothy Zahn,* and others.

•***Star Wars: The Thrawn Trilogy HC,*** a 420-page volume collecting the adaptations of *Timothy Zahn's* ***Heir to the Empire, Dark Force Rising,*** and ***The Last Command.***

OH NO! WHEN I CALLED OUT--
--I THREW PETER OFF HIS STRIDE--
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-21
--AND ONE OF OCK'S BLOWS CONNECTED!
NNGGGN!
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ARCHIE #601

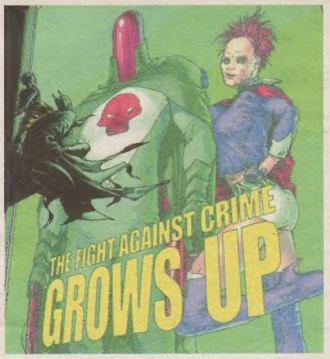
Michael Uslan (W); Stan Goldberg (A)
(Archie JUL090676 $2.50)

What's the Scoop?

Last month, the proposal. This month, the wedding. And what a wedding it is, thanks to Mr. Lodge's no-holds-barred budget!

Why Should You Care?

Michael Uslan & Stan Goldberg offer a look at the outcome of one of the most famous romantic triangles in comic book history—and their story is making history itself! Anyone who ever enjoyed an Archie comic is going to want to see what the future holds for Archie, Veronica, Betty, and the rest of the Riverdale gang.



BATMAN AND ROBIN #4

Grant Morrison (W); Philip Tan & Jonathan Glapion (A)
(DC JUL090168 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Gotham's not even accustomed to the new Dynamic Duo when the Red Hood and his sidekick Scarlet decide it's time for them to take on the role of Gotham's "protectors."

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues his look at the less-Dark Knight and sidekick in this second story arc that continues to reset the Bat-status-quo—and this time around, he's joined by artist *Philip Tan* so that *Frank Quitely* can get a head start on his *next* story arc.

BLACKEST NIGHT #3 (OF 8)

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis (A)
(DC JUL090144 $3.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT BATMAN #2 (OF 3)

Peter Tomasi (W); Adrian Syaf (A)
(DC JUL090149 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT SUPERMAN #2 (OF 3)

James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows (A)
(DC JUL090147 $2.99)

BLACKEST NIGHT TITANS #2 (OF 3)

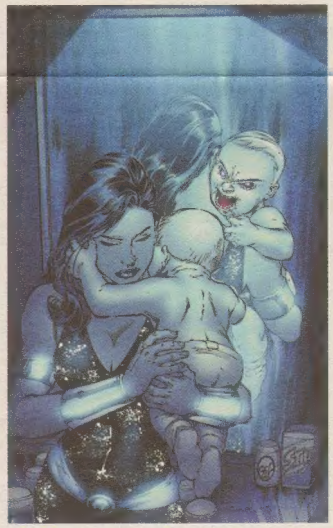
JT Krul (W); Ed Benes (A)
(DC JUL090151 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Black Lanterns attack in full force, and their combined might may be too much for even DC's mightiest heroes to overcome... but what role will the Spectre play in this undead event? Meanwhile, Batman, Superman, and the Titans are under assault by the dearly departed from their own pasts.

Why Should You Care?

Blackest Night isn't just the biggest DC event of 2009, it's the biggest *comic book event* of 2009—and *Geoff Johns* has proven that he's up to the challenge of transforming an event into an unforgettable reading experience.



DARK REIGN: THE LIST—AVENGERS

Brian Bendis (W); Marko Djurdjevic (A)
(Marvel JUL090493 $3.99)

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—DAREDEVIL

Andy Diggle (W); Billy Tan (A)
(Marvel JUL090494 $3.99)

DARK REIGN: THE LIST—X-MEN

Matt Fraction (W); Alan Davis (A)
(Marvel JUL090495 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Not even Norman Osborn can keep a scam going on forever... but that doesn't mean he's not going to try! In the ***Dark Reign: The List*** oneshots, Osborn's operatives take on the Marvel Universe's last lines of super-heroic defense in a battle royale that paves the way for the ending of the ***Dark Reign*** saga.

Why Should You Care?

What will be the new status quo in the Marvelverse? What will Norman Osborn's role be in the aftermath of ***Dark Reign?*** Which heroes will survive unscathed... and which will pay the price? The answers begin here...

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LEAVE HIM ALONE, YOU MULTI-ARMED EGOMANIAC!
EVEN IN AN ABANDONED WAREHOUSE--IT'S HARD TO FIND ANY PRIVACY!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-22

CSN TOP

FALL OUT TOY WORKS #1 (OF 5)

Brett Lewis (W); Sam Basri & Imaginary Friends Studios
(Image JUL090340 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A brilliant young robot maker risks his entire company on a newly-produce android named Tiffany... but soon the android becomes his passion—and quite possibly the source of his downfall.

Why Should You Care?

The concepts and lyrics of Fall Out Boy are the inspiration for this new series from Image—and you might recall that they've had more than a little success with comics projects inspired by the music and lyric of such artists as *Tori Amos, Coheed & Cambria,* and *Sebastian & Belle.*

MAGOG #1

Keith Giffen (W); Howard Porter (A)
(DC JUL090210 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Tired of dealing with the limitations that go along with Justice Society membership, Magog decides to go solo and take justice into his own hands as he tracks down the mystery source of high-tech arms in the DCU.

COMICS: SEPTEMBER

Why Should You Care?

The mystery man whose existence may link to *Kingdom Come* graduates to his own series in the latest *Justice Society of America* spinoff.

Why Should You Care?

Watch the Zombies cross paths with some of Marvel's most popular heroes in these tales of multiverse possibilities that takes readers back a couple of series to the point where the popular *Marvel Zombies 2* left off.

NOIR TP VOL 1

Brian Azzarello, Jeff Lemire, Rick Geary, Paul Grist, David Lapham, Dean Motter, Eduardo Barretto, Fabio Moon, Gabriel Ba, & others (W/A)

(Dark Horse MAY090058 $12.95)

What's the Scoop?

Shadowy settings, morally troubled heroes, seductive sirens, complex schemes and broken dreams... find 'em all here in this 104-page collection of all-new noir tales.

Why Should You Care?

David Lapham, Sean Phillips, Brian Azzarello, Ed Brubaker, Dean Motter, Eduardo Barreto, and many other masters of comics crime fiction unite for this original anthology, presented in stark black and white—and would you have expected anything else?

MARVEL ZOMBIES RETURN: AVENGERS

Fred Van Lente (W); Wellington Alves (A)

(Marvel JUL090545 $3.99)

MARVEL ZOMBIES RETURN: HULK

Seth Grahame-Smith (W); Richard Elson (A)

(Marvel JUL090544 $3.99)

MARVEL ZOMBIES RETURN: IRON MAN

David Wellington (W); Andrea Mutti (A)

(Marvel JUL090542 $3.99)

MARVEL ZOMBIES RETURN: SPIDER-MAN

Fred Van Lente (W); Nick Dragotta (A)

(Marvel JUL090540 $3.99)

MARVEL ZOMBIES RETURN: WOLVERINE

Jonathan Maberry (W); Jason Shawn Alexander (A)

(Marvel JUL090543 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What happened to Spider-Man, Colonel America, Power Man, Giant-Man, and Wolverine at the end of *Marvel Zombies 2*? Find out in this five-part weekly zombie event that pits them against heroes who most definitely are *not* zombie fans.

SPIDER-WOMAN #1

Brian Bendis (W); Alex Maleev (A)

(Marvel JUL090552 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Jessica Drew has to adjust a society that has undergone radical changes during her forced absence... and she also has to adjust to her new life as an agent of SWORD.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis unites with his old *Daredevil* partner *Alex Maleev* for their first ongoing series in years—and if you remember how very good *DD* was, then you know why we have high expectations for this one!

STRANGE TALES #1 (OF 3)

Paul Pope, Peter Bagge, Junko Mizuno, James Kochalka, Johnny Ryan, Nick Bertozzi, Jason, & others (W/A)

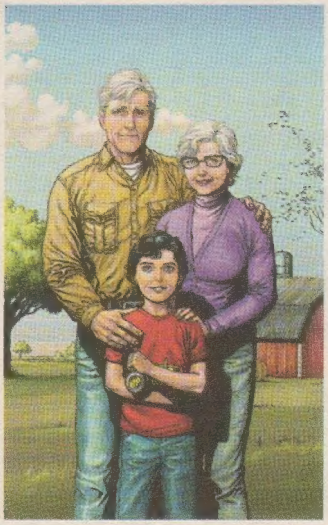
(Marvel JUL090581 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Marvel enlists some of the hottest indy talents in comics to contribute their own quirky takes on the Marvelverse.

Why Should You Care?

Where else are you gonna find Marvel heroes and villains reinterpreted by the likes of *Paul Pope, James Kochalka, Johnny Ryan,* or *Nick Bertozzi*... along with the three-part serial "The Incorrigible Hulk" by *Peter Bagge*?



SUPERMAN: SECRET ORIGIN #1 (OF 6)

Geoff Johns (W); Gary Frank (A)

(DC JUL090178 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Follow Clark Kent's journey from the cornfields of Smallville to the skyscrapers of Metropolis in a six-issue series that presents the beginnings of Superman's dealings with Lex Luthor, Lois Lane, Jimmy Olsen, the Legion of Super-Heroes, and many others.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns & Gary Frank, creators of some of the 21st Century's most popular issues of *Action Comics*, reunite for a six-issue event that redefines Superman's origin, paving the way for big events in 2010 and beyond.

SWEET TOOTH #1

Jeff Lemire (W/A)

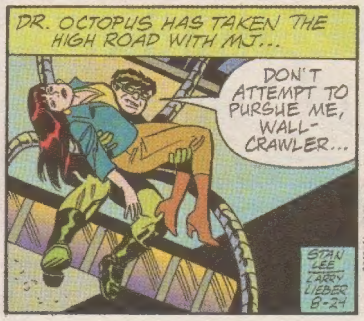
(Vertigo/DC JUL090279 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

In a post-pandemic devastated America, a strange boy with deer-like antlers is befriended by a drifter who promises to lead him to an idyllic preserve where human/animal hybrids like him can live an idyllic life.

Why Should You Care?

Acclaimed indy creator *Jeff Lemire* makes his Vertigo ongoing series debut with this quirky and haunting tale that blends human interest and science fiction.


DR. OCTOPUS HAS TAKEN THE HIGH ROAD WITH MJ...
DON'T ATTEMPT TO PURSUE ME, WALL-CRAWLER...
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-24
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OR THIS WOMAN-- WHOEVER SHE MAY BE-- PLAYS HUMPTY DUMPTY!
COULD PROBABLY CATCH HER-- BUT WHY TAKE THE CHANCE?
stanzfanz @ aol.com
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

TORCH #1 (OF 8)

Mike Carey & Alex Ross (W); Patrick Berkenkotter (A)
(Marvel JUL090468 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
The Torch is dead - but what does death mean for an artificial man? The Mad Thinker is determined to find out, with the reluctant help of the Torch's best and oldest friend, Tom (Toro) Raymond.

Why Should You Care?
Alex Ross's fascination with Golden Age heroes—a driving force behind ***Avengers/Invaders*** and ***Project Superpowers***—continues as he and *Mike Carey* reinterpret one of Marvel's first Golden Age heroes.

ULTIMATE COMICS ARMOR WARS #1 (OF 4)

Warren Ellis (W); Steve Kurth (A)
(Marvel JUL090482 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?
In the aftermath of ***Ultimatum***, Tony Stark struggles to save his crippled corporation—and to prevent the theft of his armored arsenal.

Why Should You Care?
Warren Ellis & Steve Kurth launches the post-***Ultimatum*** Ultimate Comics Iron Man with a very big bang in this pivotal miniseries.

WOLVERINE GIANT-SIZE OLD MAN LOGAN #1

Mark Millar (W); Steve McNiven (A)
(Marvel JUL090561 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?
Old Man Logan gets back to his Wolverine roots as he takes on the Hulk Gang in a battle to the death.

Why Should You Care?
Mark Millar & Steve McNiven wrap up the most popular Wolverine story arc in years with this long-overdue extra-length finale. The only bad part about it? We're not ready to say goodbye to this dystopian future version of Logan quite yet—so let's hope that Marvel uses this as a stepping stone for more future tales!

Collected Cool:
September's Best Reprint Volumes

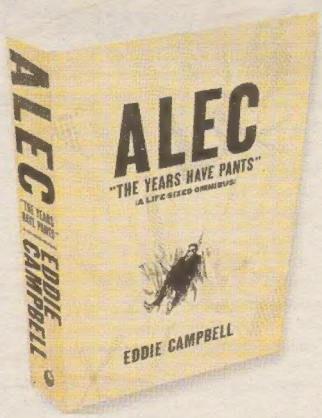
ALEC HC: YEARS HAVE PANTS LIFE SIZE OMNIBUS

(Top Shelf JUL091082 $49.95)

ALEC SC: YEARS HAVE PANTS LIFE SIZE OMNIBUS

(Top Shelf JUL091081 $35.00)

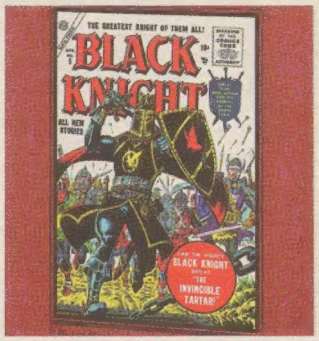
For the first time ever, the groundbreaking autobiographical comics of master cartoonist *Eddie Campbell* are collected in a single volume.



GOLDEN AGE MARVEL COMICS OMNIBUS HC VOL 1

(Marvel APR090430 $125.00)

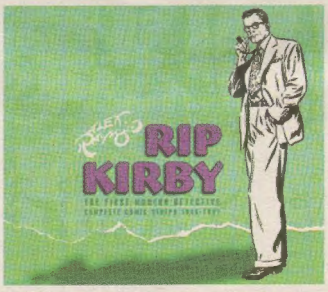
This oversized volume collects ***Marvel Comics #1*** & ***Marvel Mystery Comics #s 2-12***, along with essays on Marvel history, reproductions of rarely-seen Golden Age original art, and other bonus features.



MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA BLACK KNIGHT HC VOL 1

(Marvel MAR092619 $59.99

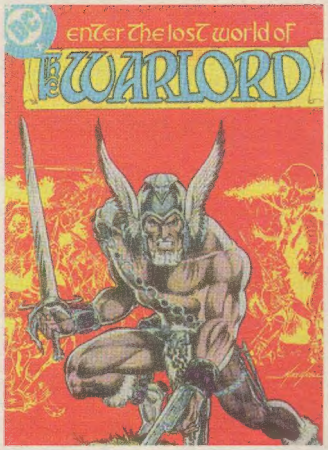
The art of *Joe Maneely* (as well as work by *Jack Kirby, John Severin, Stan Lee,* and others) is spotlighted in this collection of the 1950s ***Black Knight #1-5*** & ***Yellow Claw #1-4***. Had he not died far too young, Maneely might have taken a place alongside Kirby and Ditko as one of the Marvel Age's most influential illustrators—and this book shows him off at his best!



RIP KIRBY HC VOL 1

(IDW JUL090947 $49.99)

For the first time ever, *Alex Raymond's* work is reproduced from pristine syndicate proofs, allowing readers to enjoy the stunning intricacy of Raymond's ink work.



SHOWCASE PRESENTS WARLORD TP VOL 1

(DC JUN090216 $17.99)

Mike Grell blends Burroughs and Howard in these inner-earth fantasy tales originally published in ***First Issue Special #8*** and ***Warlord #s 1-28.***

STRANGERS IN PARADISE OMNIBUS LTD ED HC

(Abstract JUL090640 $159.99)

Two limited edition 1100+ page volumes present *Terry Moore's* entire ***SiP*** saga in one slipcased set—complete with full color reproductions of every cover!

STRANGE SUSPENSE: STEVE DITKO ARCHIVES HC VOL 1

(Fantagraphics JUL090862 $39.99)

Before he ever made his mark on comics history with Spider-Man and Doctor Strange, *Steve Ditko* proved himself to be a master or horror and fantasy tales. Now Ditko biographer ***Blake Bell*** assembles a 224-page full-color collection of pre-code horror tales produced in the first two years of Ditko's illustrious career, along with notes, essays, and more.

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TOON TREASURY OF CLASSIC CHILDREN'S COMICS HC

(Abrams JUN090668 $40.00)

Art Spiegelman & Francois Mouly assemble a hefty anthology of all-ages comic book stories first published between the 1940s and the early 1960s, including material by *Carl Barks, John Stanley, Sheldon Mayer, Walt Kelly, Basil Wolverton,* and others.

CABLE MINI-BUST

(Bowen JUL091503 $60.00)

The Kucharek Brothers do the honors on this 7" tall minibust that depicts Nathan Summers, complete with cybernetic implants and high tech armament.

Hot Commodities:
September's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BLACKEST NIGHT: ALPHA LANTERN BOODIKKA ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB090292 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT: BLACK LANTERN EARTH 2 SUPERMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB090290 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT: BLUE LANTERN SAINT WALKER ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB090291 $24.00)

BLACKEST NIGHT: RED LANTERN ATROCITUS ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct FEB090293 $24.00)

As *Geoff Johns* chronicles the biggest comics event of 2009, DC Direct launches a timely action figure line that complements the must-read miniseries.

HARLEY QUINN 1/2 SCALE BUST

(DC Direct FEB090300 $295.00)

The Joker's sycophantic sidekick is depicted in this half-sized bust sculpted by *Andy Bergholtz.*

HEROES OF THE DCU SUPERMAN BUST

(DC Direct FEB090294 $70.00)

The art of *Carlos Pacheco* is the inspiration for this striking image of comics' most iconic superhero.

RETRO HULK GREEN STATUE

(Bowen JUN091495 $200.00)

Randy Bowen & Troy McDevitt do the sculpting honors on this massive 13" tall statue of the Hulk in all his brutal glory.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

DC COMICS GUIDE TO DIGITALLY DRAWING COMICS SC

(Watson Guptill JUN091212 $22.95)

Freddie E Williams II offers step-by-step directions, guiding readers through the digital process, from turning on the computer to finishing a digital file of fully inked comic art.

LIFE AND TIMES OF WALT KELLY HC

(Hermes MAY091189 $49.99)

This comprehensive look at the career of ***Pogo*** creator *Walt Kelly* details his work from its beginnings with Walt Disney through the historic publication of his signature character.

Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

ASTRO CITY: ASTRA SPECIAL #1 (OF 2)

(Wildstorm/DC AUG090198 $3.99)

Kurt Busiek & Brent Anderson present a turning point in the life of Astra Furst, the third-generation Super Hero of Astro City.

HUNTINGTON WEST VIRGINIA: ON THE FLY GN

(Villard JUL091096 $19.95)

Harvey Pekar returns to his roots as the 'godfather of autobiographical comics' with this series of long stories about the people he encounters daily

MARVEL SUPER HERO SQUAD #1 (OF 4)

(Marvel JUL090534 $3.99)

Paul Tobin & Dario Brizuela invite readers to pay a visit to Super Hero City in this comic inspired by upcoming cartoon series.

RICHARD MOORE'S THE POUND

(Antarctic JUL090660 $3.99)

The creator of ***Boneyard*** presents a semi-human interest tale of chimeras—genetically engineered human-animal hybrids—trying to scrape out a living in the prison-city known as The Pound.

SPIDER-MAN CLONE SAGA #1 (OF 6)

(Marvel JUL090492 $3.99)

Howard Mackie, Tom DeFalco, & Todd Nauck present the clone saga as it was *supposed* to be told before Marvel editorial wimped out more than a decade ago.

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YOU'LL LET HER GO-- IF I HELP YOU WITH WOLVERINE?
YES, I NEED ONE OF HIS CLAWS!
BUT THEY'RE MADE OF ADAMANTIUM--THE HARDEST SUBSTANCE KNOWN.
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR SUPER STRENGTH--TO SLICE ONE OFF!!
Colors: Ward Batty
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